The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1023. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1930 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 36.

The less power a man has the more he likes to use it.—J. Petit-Senn.

WORKLESS CAN BE RELIEVED BY BASIC REMEDIES

The unemployment issue can not be solved by incantation.

Confidence resolutions and talk of our country "being fundamentally sound" will not appease hunger or afford shelter.

Millions of workless have heard this story for a year, yet winter looms with more publicity-seeking.

Facts must be faced unless we are only interested in building a temporary road to another and yet another inevitable depression.

No realist denies that mass production has created a surplus that can not be purchased with present wage standards.

Our boasted "high" wages is a myth, when compared with output. The long work day is enforced upon hundreds and hundreds of thousands of working men and women.

A charitable act is no substitute for social justice.

To give a man a few hours work or arrange for the homeless to sleep is to gloss the evil.

This so-called relief may interest charity workers, but statesmen and owners of industry should be interested in causes of unemployment and their removal.

Conferences and more conferences, surveys, studies, resolves and press releases are the rule, while jobless men despair, women weep and childhood hungers.

Our year-old hush-hush policy is satisfactory to industrialists who talk one way and act another—who preach on the value of high wages and who stealthily lower wages, or who accomplish the same purpose by speed up processes.

That this hush-hush policy may be intensified—if not challenged—is indicated by the Washington (D. C.) Herald: "There are less than 5,000 unemployed here and most of those 5,000 would not work anywhere, anyhow. This newspaper will not join the calamity howl."

Workers face a second winter without employment and with exhausted resources. They want work. This can be secured if national production is placed on a five-day week basis, if wage cutting is replaced by the opposite policy, and if a building program of magnificent proportions is quickly launched.

Shorter hours and higher wages are basic remedies. Soup houses is charity, as ancient Rome provided bread and the circus for her hungry slaves.

Trade unionists should drive home these facts in no uncertain tone.

Visionless and timid men, who really protect five-wage employers, should be jarred from piddling relief proposals. Their foundation is the hope that "things will eventually work out."

When they do "work out," the very forces that brought on this depression will, if not corrected, begin to immediately develop conditions similar to today.

SHIP OWNERS GIVEN ADVICE HOW TO BEAT DAMAGE SUITS

New York, Nov. 15.—Heavy damage awards is worrying ship owners since seamen were placed on a par with railroad workers under the Federal liability law.

Organized seamen resisted attempts to place them under the Federal compensation law and these workers rely on juries. This practice is proving so costly that James Hanna, writing in the Nautical Gazette, says: "Seamen are not at sea to study 'safety first' as it applies to themselves." The trade journal refers to "safety first" posters as "rubbish," and says seamen are there to take what may befall.

"They are there to keep the ship and her gear in a seaworthy condition and, when the necessity arises, to give their lives that others may live."

The trade unionist's solution for safety at sea is employment of competent seamen who are assured good work conditions. Ships are now manned by the dregs of society, who can not make a living ashore and who do not know how to protect their lives or the lives of their associates and passengers, asserts Furuseth.

Officers do not enter suits, for fear of being blacklisted. Ship owners are now advised to have these officers become acquainted with court decisions "and other important points." A rotten rope, for instance, may disappear when seamen are injured, under the new system.

Andrew Furuseth, president International Seamen's Union, in a letter to the Nautical Gazette, says: "Seamen are not at sea to study 'safety first' as it applies to themselves." The trade journal refers to "safety first" posters as "rubbish," and says seamen are there to take what may befall.

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ALLEN, OF "CAN'T-STRIKE" FAME, FINALLY SENT TO PRIVATE LIFE

Washington, Nov. 15.—The defeat of Senator Allen of Kansas in the recent election is significant.

Allen was appointed by the governor of Kansas to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Curtis, who was elected vice president. Allen, who was governor of Kansas, secured the passage of an anti-strike law, and inflamed the nation's non-thinking element by his plea that the rights of the public are greater than the rights of individuals.

Under this reasoning, workers have no right if it interferes with popular inconvenience. Allen debated this question in New York City with the late Samuel Gompers. Allen's theory was upheld in the Senate by Sherman of Illinois, Myers of Oregon, Poindexter of Washington and others long since forgotten. Allen is the last to join these ranks. During his short stay in the Senate he was considered spokesman for the administration, and was a leader in the effort to secure Senate approval of Judge Parker's nomination for Supreme Court justice. His defeat was one of the election sensations. He ran 25,000 behind George McGill, Democrat, while Senator Capper, Republican candidate for the full term, was elected by more than 100,000 majority. Never in the history of Kansas has organized workers so solidly lined up against a candidate. Wichita, Allen's home town, which is Republican, rejected the man who would handcuff workers, by more than 5,000 votes.

LAME DUCKS CONTROL UNTIL DECEMBER, '31

Washington, Nov. 15.—The recent political upheaval in the National Congress is another reminder of the need for adoption of the Norris amendment to the Federal Constitution, which will eliminate "lame ducks."

Scores of lawmakers were repudiated, but they will function until December, next year, when newly-elected Senators and Representatives take office, 13 months after their election.

This system was necessary in the days of stage coach and canal boat transportation and communication.

The final session of the present Congress will convene the first Monday in December, this year, and adjourn sine die on March 4, 1931. This is known as the "short session," which is often marked by vicious legislation and "jokers" that are passed with the aid of "lame ducks," who hope for Federal patronage or jobs as lobbyists.

If the President does not call an extra session of Congress after March 4, next year, when the present Congress dies, the people must wait until December, 1931, for a new Congress with newly-elected Senators and Representatives are sworn in.

The Norris constitutional amendment provides that Federal lawmakers shall take office in January following their election. This proposal has been approved by the Senate, but is held up in the House.

"Lame ducks" and "lame ducks" are against the amendment.

PEOPLE'S LOW BUYING POWER BROUGHT BUSINESS LET DOWN

Washington, Nov. 15.—"Census Bureau figures, just issued, sustain the view that the business depression was caused by low buying power being unable to purchase the nation's surplus," says the Washington Post in a leading editorial. The Post is one of the nation's prominent daily newspapers.

"The fact that there was an 'overproduction' can no longer be questioned," says the editor, who asserts that if industry paid wages in the same proportion as it did in 1849, "wage earners would have received an aggregate of $16,000,000,000. Instead, they were paid $11,271,116,000."

"On the basis of productive capacity American labor is cheap," declares the Post. "A study of the increases in both wages and industry suggests that the working man is not receiving his full share of the wealth he helps to create.

"A glance at the more recent figures is more convincing. During 1927 wages amounted to $10,848,802,000 and the products of manufacturing industries were worth $62,718,347,000. Wages increased in the following two years by $422,214,000, in spite of the fact that fewer workmen were employed. But during that same period production was augmented to the extent of $5,735,139,000. In other words, labor registered a gain of 3.8 per cent in its purchasing power, while the output of industry gained more than 9 per cent.

"In these figures lies the story of the industrial depression. While goods were turned out at a pace never before equalled in history, the buying power of the public was making but small gains. When the climax was reached in the last months of 1929, a period of adversity was inevitable because the people did not have sufficient money to buy the surplus goods which they had produced.

"If the country is to go on producing at the 1929 level, the buying power of the people must be increased. Consuming power always lags behind, and it has no limitations. From the long range view, all that is necessary to make it effective is to increase the earning power of the workman's family."

PROGRESSIVES WON BITTER CONTESTS

Washington, Nov. 15.—The recent elections placed a large group of social-minded men in the Senate.

The campaigns against Senator Norris and Senator Walsh of Montana were especially vicious. Norris, as the fearless exploitation of private water power, and Walsh, as the prosecutor of oil thieves, won the hatred of privilege.

Every trick known to the lowest politician was used by Walsh-Norris opponents. In the Nebraska fight Norris' opponents found a grocery clerk in a small town who has the same name as the Senator and they attempted to place a second George W. Norris on the ballot to confuse voters.

In both campaigns Progressives carried the fight to the enemy, whose strategy was whispers and libels.

Popular resentment against the power trust and its tactics was also illustrated in the defeat of Congressman Reed, who has held office for five terms, and who aided in blocking the Norris bill for government operation of Muscle Shoals. The Reed defeat by an independent of the same political faith, who entered the campaign 10 days before election, surprised the nation and bewildered power trust defenders.

CLEVELAND HOTELS VICTIMIZE WORKERS

Washington, Nov. 15.—The attention of organized labor is called to the anti-union policy of leading hotels in the city of Cleveland by the A. F. of L. Executive Council, in a circular letter to all affiliates.

The hotels are: Cleveland, Hollenden, Statler, Winton, Olmstead and Allerton. These are all members of the Hotel Managers' Association, that locked out members of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Union.

The lock-out was enforced last July when the unionists were asked to sign a "yellow dog." They declined to withdraw from the union and are now on the streets.

The managers' action was met by a withdrawal from these hotels of organized engineers, firemen and musicians, and the hotels are now being operated on a 100 per cent non-union plan, with the "yellow dog" in full operation.

The managers, for 17 years, maintained relations with the unions. The lock-out was condemned by the Boston A. F. of L. convention, and unionists are asked by the Executive Council to not give financial support or consideration when convention cities or other meetings are being considered.

SUGAR TARIFF FOES GET SWEET REVENGE

Washington, Nov. 15.—"Davy" Lewis, union miner and "father of the parcel post," was elected to the House of Representatives, defeating Congressman Ehlman, Republican, in the Maryland district adjacent to Washington.

Edward P. Costigan of Colorado was elected to the United States Senate.

Behind these announcements is a story of intrigue by sugar barons who found foes in the two men who were members of the United States Tariff Commission, and who were kicked out of office because they stood for the right.

The sugar tariff was before the commission. One member of that body was interested in sugar through his wife's ownership of cane in a Louisiana sugar mill. Lewis and Costigan insisted that he retire from the hearings. He refused and they appealed without success to President Coolidge. The late Senator La Follette threatened to take up the fight on the floor of the Senate, and the sugar member changed his mind.

But Lewis and Costigan were marked men. Neither was reappointed. Lewis refused to accept office with the understanding that he would make immediate resignation in the hands of President Coolidge. Both retired to private life, and during all these years have continued their fight. One is now in the Senate and the other is in the House. Costigan is a member of the House, two decades ago, led the fight for the present parcel post system.

TEXTILE WORKERS VOTE DANVILLE AID

New York, Nov. 15.—The emergency committee of United Textile Workers voted a $1 assessment on members to aid Danville strikers. It was suggested that all locals make weekly contributions for the duration of the strike.

The A. F. of L. appeal for funds is bringing responses and plans for sustaining these strikers during the winter months are becoming effective.

"It should be remembered that the 1,500 strikers do not include women, children and dependents of these workers," said President McMahon of the United Textile Workers.

"Danville swarms with private detectives and undercover men who have boosted their ingenuity to invent excuses for their presence," said Mr. McMahon. No strike in the industrial history of this country has been marked by such an absence of conflict. The workers are staying at home. Sugar and coffee are considered luxuries at the commissaries, and the workers only ask for a bare living in their fight against a company "union" that the management refers to as "industrial democracy."

CHEMIST PREDICTS SILK FROM WATER GAS

New York, Nov. 15.—Artificial silk out of the abundant supply of natural water gas by means of high pressure hydrogenation was predicted by Dr. Per K. Frolich of the research staff of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey. The new silk, said Dr. Frolich, will more closely resemble the natural product than rayon.

"In pressure," continued Dr. Frolich, "the chemist has discovered a tool with which he is now rapidly opening up a new field of industrial activity. There is no chemical reason why dyestuffs should not be produced out of the abundant supply of natural water gas by building them up through the addition of hydrogen under high pressure. In the same manner we should be able to produce synthetic fats and proteins from water gas."

"UNREST IS MENTAL"; PATIENCE URGED

New York, Nov. 15.—The United States is fundamentally sound, our unrest is mental and "there is nothing to worry about because things will right themselves in time," was the advice of Otto H. Kahn, New York banker, to 800 guests who were entertained at his Long Island estate.

Mr. Kahn, who recently returned from Europe, said unrest in the United States is largely mental. He drew the comparison of a man who was physically fit but who imagined he was sick.

Mr. Kahn said conditions in Europe are much worse than here.

MOLDERS VICTIMIZED

Morris, Ill., Nov. 15.—The Coleman Manufacturing Company repudiated its agreement with organized molders. The company makes "stoop" and "go" light buses for the city of Chicago.

APPLE PEDDLING CUTS UNEMPLOYED

New York, Nov. 15.—Merryle Stanley Rukeyser, financial writer, in a copyright article issued by Universal Service, Inc., seriously offers this suggestion as an unemployment remedy:

"In connection with the mayor's relief program in New York, men are selling apples in the streets at 5 cents each. Public attention is arrested by the word 'unemployed' on placards above the apples. Of course, such men are no longer unemployed; they have become gainfully employed as apple merchants. Other men, who cannot find an employer possibly may find at least a temporary means toward a livelihood by going out on their own —perhaps as door-to-house canvassers and peddlers."

RED TAPE IS IGNORED BY SECRETARY HURLEY

Washington, Nov. 15.—Secretary of War Hurley announces that his department will aid in meeting the unemployment situation by the immediate use of all available cots and blankets to "relieve conditions of acute distress."

The secretary says he has legal authority for such action, but he personally assumes responsibility for issuing this equipment.

SECRETARY LABOR QUITS NEXT MONTH

Washington, Nov. 15.—Secretary of Labor Davis, who holds the unique record of being a cabinet member under three presidents, will continue in his position "until about noon, December 1," when he plans to be sworn in as United States senator from Pennsylvania.

Should Mr. Davis carry out this program he will set a precedent in American history by leaving his cabinet post to become a senator. The President has not indicated whom he will appoint to succeed Mr. Davis.

STRIKE OPPONENTS WANT MILITARY AID

Danville, Va., Nov. 15.—Danville textile strikers are resisting every attempt of "disinterested citizens" to turn this city into an armed camp under the guise of "protection of life and property."

Charges of law violations have been made against the strikers, but in not a single instance have these charges been upheld in court. The plea for troops to "cope with the situation" is answered by the unionists' challenge to point one case where a striker has been convicted.

The strikers' relief committee were having difficulty in securing coal and kerosene for heating purposes and farmers in this vicinity have granted permission to cut fuel wood on their premises. Groups of workers go to the woods and the fuel is cut into stove lengths by a power-driven saw which has been rigged up. A few nights ago the wood-saw operation until long after midnight and 70 truck loads of wood was distributed to families who are having their gas cut off because they are delinquent.

READING WORKERS CUT

Reading, Pa., Nov. 15.—A 30 per cent wage cut was handed a group of workers in the Berkshire Knitting Mills, the world's largest full-fashioned hosiery plant. Reductions are promised other employes.

The American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers, affiliated to United Textile Workers, are leading the fight against these cuts. Workers are urged to join the union.

DRESSMAKERS GAIN

New York, Nov. 15.—A wage increase of $1 a week was awarded children's dress makers by Dr. I. N. Stone, impartial chairman of the dress industry. The workers are members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. They struck for $2.

MACHINE MUST GIVE AN ENLARGED LIFE

Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 15.—"The machine age will fail if its one purpose is to give man a mere living," said President Hoover in an address at the dedication of a new building by a food corporation.

"Man learned the art of staying alive long before he learned the art of mechanics," said the President. "The machine must build him a better life, not only for a time of leisure, but in joy of work, than he knew before.

"Unless industry makes men, women and children happier in their work, unless it gives opportunity and creative satisfaction in the job itself, it cannot excuse its failure by pleading that at least it has kept them alive."

RAILWAYS RESIST STATE WAGE LAW

Albany, N. Y., Nov. 15.—The State Industrial Court next month will pass on the plea of eight railroads to set aside the State Legislature's act compelling railroads to observe the eight-hour day and "the prevailing rate of wages" on all grade crossing work.

The elimination of grade crossings will cost $300,000,000, equally divided between the railroads and the State. At a time when every one agrees that this work is a private venture and is not subject to State regulation. The case will eventually find its way to the United States Supreme Court. It is one of the biggest law suits New York State ever faced.

The railroads are being united in the fight against the law are the New York Central, Delaware & Hudson, Long Island, Delaware, Erie, Lehigh Valley, New Haven and Staten Island Rapid Transit.

CHILD WELFARE URGED BY SECRETARY WILBUR

Washington, Nov. 15.—There are 45,000,000 children in the country and 1,500,000 have communicable diseases, said Secretary of the Interior Wilbur in a radio address. He said that with knowledge and intelligence to wipe out at least three-fourths of these diseases, he said.

"We've contracted our living space from prairies and plains and plantations and farms to city lots with hand-box houses and squeezed from hand-box houses to pillbox apartments. Children need space."

"JOBLESS ARMY IS INDICTMENT AGAINST INDUSTRIAL LEADERS"

—CHAS. P. HOWARD, President I. T. U.

Indianapolis, Nov. 15.—"Unemployment is an indictment against our industrial leaders," declared Charles P. Howard, president International Typographical Union, in a radio address.

The refusal of controllers of industry to shorten the work day and week "is largely responsible for the present depression, bankruptcy and unemployment," said the trade unionist, who pointed to the increased productive capacity of the machine that neither purchases nor consumes.

"Refusal to deal upon a collective basis prevents complete organization of industry," asserted Mr. Howard. "We are without the one agency through which it is possible to establish and maintain conditions which prevent destructive competition with its inescapable effect upon elements which must be fixed."

"Conferences have been held under Federal, State and municipal direction to deal with the unemployed problem. Officials of high and low degree have discussed and deplored conditions. But few have had the courage to deal with the question in other than generalities and fewer have expressed a willingness to apply the only remedy which will permanently improve conditions.

"The control of industry has remained so autocratic that not even the Federal government can regulate intelligently to do more than prohibit destructive benefits resulting from invention and mechanical progress."

MECHANICAL AGE BRINGS NEW PERIL

Chapel Hill, N. C., Nov. 15.—"Our mechanical age imperils civilization," declared Rev. Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr of Union Theological Seminary, at the annual Southern conference on education at the University of North Carolina.

Making indirect reference to the present industrial situation, Dr. Niebuhr said the people lack social intelligence. "We are too mechanical," he said.

He declared that we are trying to run the intricate collectivities of an industrial civilization with a conscience that we inherited from our pioneer forefathers and that we try to govern each generation by traditions which emerged out of situations other than our own.

"Multiple ownership destroys the sense of responsibility and multiplication of workers are individual in the crowd," said Dr. Niebuhr.

"If we can not bring the anarchaic forces at the heart of our industrial society under the control of human conscience and intelligence there is no hope for our generation. We must then wait for the day when our social institutions will become so maladjusted and so inadequate to our needs that the vehement hatred of those who suffer from such injustices will furnish the energy of chaos which intelligence was unable to supply.

"Whether a modern society can gradually eliminate its injustices and grow steadily toward a genuine ethical goal, or whether it can save itself only from disaster only by violent convulsions is a question that can be answered only by educational forces of modern society."

LAND OWNERS OPPOSE LESS COTTON ACREAGE

Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 15.—Reduced cotton acreage that would make a fair price possible runs contrary to the interests of other crops in this state, who are only interested in land rents, says the Alabama Department of Agriculture.

"We may as well speak plainly on this subject," says the department in a statement. "About one-fifth to one-third of the crop land in Alabama is farmed by cropper and cash tenants, and a like third of the cotton land is so occupied.

"The owners of these lands are interested primarily in securing cash rental contracted for, and only secondarily in profitable crop production. Cotton has been the source of rent from these lands and consequently cotton production has been encouraged more than that of other crops. These tenants have had nothing to offer as security for credit except their acreage and mules, and hence the sources of credit have encouraged the growth of cotton.

"Cotton has been grown more to keep cotton acreage in advance of other kinds of farming than all other influences combined."

8 HOURS FOR WOMEN NOT GENERAL RULE

Washington, Nov. 15.—The vast majority of women work more than eight hours, according to a statement issued by the United States Women's Bureau. Contrary to general belief, wage-working women have no eight-hour day, it is stated.

"With the trend toward the five-day week and suggestions of the six-hour day, the eight-hour standard is getting to almost as old-fashioned as a 1920 automobile," the bureau states.

"Many women in factories have an eight-hour day or less, but they constitute the minority of all, those in industry, Uncle Sam's investigations show. A work day of such length was characteristic of only one-fifth of the 227,000 women working in 2,700 factories, stores and laundries scattered through 16 states that were included in Women's Bureau studies during the period 1919-1928."

5-DAY WEEK FOR PAINTERS

Wilmington, Del., Nov. 15.—Organized painters adopted the five-day week. The local Building Trades Council has taken the same position.

JAPS OUST WHITE MEN

Modesto, Cal., Nov. 15.—Japanese are ousting white butchers in this city and living standards of white workers is lowered.

MOVIE OPERATORS WIN

Minneapolis, Nov. 15.—Movie picture operators won a lockout that several local theaters enforced 18 weeks ago.

AMERICAN CONCERNS MIGRATE TO EUROPE

New York, Nov. 15.—American branch factories in Europe and Canada are employing more than 500,000 workers, according to the New York Trust Company.

Migration of American industry commenced before the war, but its most rapid expansion has been in the last ten years, coincidently with the marked increase in American investments in foreign countries.

The trust company declares that "the export trade and labor conditions, and chief among the movement on American industrial practice and living conditions abroad, in time, may be extremely far reaching."

Canada leads in American branch factories. There were 79 American branch plants in Germany at the beginning of the present year and several others were planned. A number of American firms are established in Great Britain and recently branch plants, principally for the manufacture of automobiles, have been established in France, Italy and Spain.

On the basis of four dependents to a worker, this migration, with their 500,000 employees, means that 2,000,000 persons in this country are directly affected.

SHOALS SOLUTION BEFORE CONGRESS

Washington, Nov. 15.—Senator McNary will demand a show-down of the Muscle Shoals problem when Congress convenes next month. He is chairman of the conference committee on which both branches, which is attempting to reconcile differences between the Norris bill, which provides for government operation of Muscle Shoals, and the Reece bill, which provides for leasing to private interests.

The Norris bill passed the Senate and the Reece bill passed the House. Reece was defeated in the last election by an independent candidate who entered the race ten days before polling.

The effect of the Reece defeat is indicated by Senator Fess of Ohio, who is quoted as saying that while he favors leasing to private interests he would be inclined to vote for government operation "rather than see the power go to waste."

BILLS TO AID IDLE URGED BY WAGNER

Washington, Nov. 15. — Senator Wagner will urge his unemployment relief bills when Congress convenes next month.

The most important of the measures—which would provide $150,000,000 for public works when there are indications of a slackening of employment—still in conference between the two branches of Congress.

Another bill—which would create a system of employment agencies through which the states and the Federal government could cooperate in placing the jobless—is slumbering in the House.

The third bill provides for the collection of unemployment statistics. This bill became a law, but no money was voted to make the plan effective.

LABOR PAID 35 CENTS FOR MICHIGAN WORK

Detroit, Mich., Nov. 15.—A wage rate of 35 cents an hour for common labor employed on state construction work has aroused a storm of opposition by labor unions in the state.

The order was issued by the Michigan Administration Board. Governor Green, who is defending the order, said contractors were "taking advantage of the low 15 and 20 cents an hour for common labor."

The Detroit Labor News says: "Think what a 35-cent an hour rate means to a man who has a family to support. He will, if present plans are carried out, work but three days a week in order that the work may be more evenly divided."

UPHOLSTERERS GAIN

New York, Nov. 15.—Upholsterers and carpet and linoleum mechanics are maintaining work conditions and there is a slight business improvement in some sections, according to William Kohn, president of that international union.